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FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7579
INFO RUEHZM/GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RHBVAKS/COMUSNAVCENT PRIORITY
RHMFISS/HQ USCENCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 000076

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/07/2018
TAGS: [PGOV PHUM SOCI BA](#)
SUBJECT: IT DOESN'T ADD UP: SHI'A MP CHALLENGES GOB
POPULATION FIGURES

REF: 06 MANAMA 1728

Classified By: Ambassador Adam Ereli for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

- 1.(C) Summary: The leader of Bahrain's largest Shi'a political party sparred in parliament with the Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs over
- 2.(SBU) In a debate February 5 in the lower house of parliament broadcast live on Bahraini radio, Al-Wifaq leader Ali Salman called on Minister
- 3.(SBU) Salman said Attiyatallah and other CIO officials were either incompetent or had intentionally covered up a "crime of political naturali
- 4.(SBU) Attiyatallah attempted to shift blame to the Ministry of Health, claiming that the CIO relies in part on the birth and death figures th
- 5.(C) Comment: The CIO reported Bahrain's population in 2001 as 650,604 and in 2005 as 724,000. Most observers have long believed that the gove
- 6.(C) Comment continued: Attiyatallah is a leading focus of Shi'a grievances, first for his alleged role in the 2006 Bandargate vote-rigging sc